

PROPOSALS



Humbly Offered

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To the Honourable House of COMMONS,

By JOHN GOODWIN, Gent.

To Raise ^{Five} Millions in ^{one} Year, (Three of which may be Raised in the First Month) by a Duty to be laid upon the Woollen-Manufacture, with Hair and Silk, by such a way that none shall Pay towards it, but they that please, and they that will, shall Pay but what they please.

DEMONSTRATED THUS:

THAT a Valuation be put upon these following Effects, and that all the Prizes above the Valuation shall pay the following Duty, and all below shall be free.

Imprimis, That all Cloth of 6 Quarters wide, exceeding 6 s. per Yard, shall pay 2 d. out of every Shilling that shall be advanc'd in Price higher.

And for all Cloth of 5 Quarters wide, exceeding 5 s. per Yard, shall pay the like Duty; and for every Yard of Cloth, or Frize of Yard wide, exceeding 3 s. per Yard, shall pay the like: And all Rattens above 5 Quarters wide, exceeding 4 s. per Yard, the same: All narrow Frize, exceeding 2 s. per Yard, the same: All Serges and Druggets at a Yard broad, exceeding 2 s. 6 d. per Yard, the same: All narrower than 3 Quarters, exceeding 2 s. per Yard, the same: And all Shalloons, exceeding 16 d. per Yard, the same: All half-yard broad Stuffs, exceeding 10 d. per Yard, the same: And all of that breadth mixed with Silk, or Hair, the same: All Stuffs, or Shags made of all Hair, the same: And all Silks made in England, exceeding 2 s. 6 d. per Yard, the same: All Flannels, Bays, Swanskins, or Seys, exceeding 1 s. per Yard, the same: All Linsey-Woolsey that shall be Printed, or Calender'd, to pay one Penny per Yard at the Place of Printing.

This Duty may be Collected thus: As all the Commodities have a place to Seal them by their way of Trade; and at those Places, Collectors, may be appointed, who shall understand these Commodities, and they; or either of them, with a Supervisor, shall set the Duty upon the Commodities, and Seal them with a Seal, signifying the Duty paid; and all under the Duty, shall have likewise a Seal signifying the same; and if the Maker, or any Person for him, or after him, shall offer to sell any of the aforesaid Commodities, either by Wholesale or Retail, without these Marks or Seals, that they shall be liable to such a Penalty as shall be thought fit, or if the Merchant, or other Dealers shall buy or receive any of the aforesaid Goods into their Custody, without these Marks, they shall be liable to the same; or if any other Person shall Conceal any of the aforesaid Goods, these Goods shall be forfeited to the King, and they likewise liable to a Penalty, as shall be thought fit. But if any of the said Commodities have no Place to Seal them, by way of Trade, that the Place shall be appointed for them by the Commissioners.

But for the Commodities now in all hands, they must be charged where they be found, which will raise the Three Millions above-mentioned, and may be Collected in the first Month; for all whole Pieces of Cloth and Stuffs their Lengths are known, and Fineness seen without Trouble, and the Remnants can be but little.

And to avoid all Disputes with the Owners for their Goods, being overcharged by the Duty that any of them under that Apprehension, shall set that part to the Collectors for the Duty, and they obliged to take it; so that this can no way discourage the Woollen-Manufacture, for in all Hands that the said Goods shall pass through from the Maker to the Wearer, they will get 2 d. in the Shilling for the Use of the Duty, which is above 16 l. per Cent. though the Goods lie on their Hands a Year; so that this can effect none but the Wearer, and in every particular the Poor may be exempted without prejudice; for the Coarsest is generally the Thickest, and consequently the warmest, and all others may be as cheap Cloathed as they were formerly, if they please notwithstanding this Duty; for if he that bought Cloth of 20 s. per Yard, buys that of 18 s. per Yard; and he that bought at 16 s. 6 d. buys that of 15 s. and he that bought at 13 s. buys that of 12 s. and he that bought at 9 s. 6 d. buys that of 9 s. it will cost but the same Money; and a Man of good Judgment shall hardly distinguish the Difference.

As for the Quality and Gentry, it will but make that distinction between them and others, which is very convenient.

And this will be no small Contradiction to the Notions of our Forreign Enemies, That England can hold out no longer; when it plainly appears that by a Voluntary Duty upon one single Commodity, with the Revenues already settled, are able to maintain the War for Seven Years longer, without Damage to Trade or People.

All which I humbly present, with Submission, to be Corrected and Amended by this Honourable House, as They in Their great Wisdoms shall think fit.

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